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The "Political Prisoners."
President Harding's act of clemency toward Eugene V. Debs and a number of other offenders against the war-time laws enacted for national security is a gracious act of mercy, well timed for Christmas. Debs' release from prison has been expected for some time. A constant pressure has been exerted upon the executive and upon the public to affect national sentiment by certain groups of sympathizers with the radical leader. An organization has been formed for the purpose of securing the release of all "political prisoners" on the ground that the war being over there is no further occasion for their imprisonment. This movement was endorsed by some other national organizations and opposed by some, notably the American Legion. The President's action is not necessarily in response to this propaganda for Debs' release. It is known that he has for some time been considering the extension of clemency.

This action will probably not satisfy those who have been clamoring for the release of Debs and other "political offenders." In the first place, it is not a pardon, but a commutation of sentence, which does not restore citizenship. Debs and the others are released from prison, but they do not regain their civil rights. Moreover, the demand for release affected the cases of 137 persons, so that there remain 123 still in prison. The President refused to consider the release of those who were convicted of sabotage or attempted overthrow of the government by force.

The argument of those who urged the release of these "political prisoners" was that their offense was merely that of free speech. But in many of the cases of convictions under the espionage law the offense was far graver than the mere uttering of opinion antagonistic to the American war policy, or critical of the manner of prosecuting the war. Most of those who were convicted tried to check the operation of the selective draft law; tried, in short, to prevent the raising of the army. They discouraged enlistments and encouraged draft evasion. They preached non-resistance and pacifism. They sought to obstruct the government's preparation for war.

When the results of the Paris conference were before the Senate no member of that body appearing as the champion of what Mr. Wilson had brought back with him had other than second-hand information on the subject. And information even of that kind was meager. Mr. Wilson had operated so much on his individual account—had played a lone hand so much at Paris—the supporters of his work had to look to him for arguments and explanations; and his communications left much to be desired. He did not answer his critics thoroughly even on his stumping tour across the continent.

The American delegates to the armament conference have so far been in agreement, and are likely to continue of one mind as to what the occasion calls for. So that what Mr. Lodge and Mr. Underwood shall say to the Senate concerning their labors as delegates will make a strong appeal to thoughtful and well informed American opinion.

Joy in a Basket.
At this season of the year those who look only upon the surface of things might imagine that every one had forgotten the true significance of Christmas. There is much talk of gifts, much talk of turkey, but not so much said about the birthday of the Savior. But beneath the common currents of our conversation runs a deeper feeling which will show forth tomorrow in all the churches of the city in hymn and devotion, and in the hearts of solid citizens who today talk only of turkey and gifts.

There will be, too, thousands of people in the District who this evening and tomorrow will exemplify the teachings of Jesus in a practical way which he taught. They will carry baskets of food to homes which otherwise would go without on Christmas day.

An eminent musician recently declared that before the war he had lived for music's sake alone, but that his experiences on the front had taught him that even the highest ideals were when the stomach is empty. Give the greatest musician in the world a piece of bread and a cup of water, he said, and he will play his music better. Even the hungry listener will listen better.

So, on Christmas, every one who packs a basket with food and carries it to a home where it will fill empty stomachs will help bring the true significance of the day to some who otherwise might miss it. And in thus taking joy in a basket to others he will bring joy to himself.

According to some naval experts a capital warship is interesting as a comparatively passive target for a submarine.

History provides no encouragement for the assumption that all the problems of the world can be settled at a single conference.

"A Workers' Republic."
This is from New York: Hundreds of members of various radical organizations tonight opened a meeting at which it was intended to create "the workers' party of America," a unification of revolutionary workers. George Hay, leader of the element in the I. W. W. favorable to the world-wide revolution, said that the goal of this new party would be to set up a workers' republic in America. "Simultaneous with a great strike," he said, "we will take our hands the instrument of government and begin an oppression against the master class and put them where we have us today. We are going to repeat throughout the whole world what the Russian workers have done in their country."

Mr. Hardy seems not to be advised of the fact that "a workers' republic" already exists in America. True, all the citizens of it do not work with their hands. Some, naturally, work with their brains. As in all countries, brain-workers are as necessary in America as brawn-workers. Each class complements the other. Neither could get along without the other.

Idlers have never controlled America. To begin with, they are not numerous enough; and, to end with, if the number were multiplied twenty

owners of which have then ground for complaint. Furthermore, when the cars of customers are parked in front it is impossible to load or unload merchandise trucks, which must be brought as close as possible to the establishment.
Thus the whole question is somewhat paradoxical. The citizens' committee has proposed what is probably the best compromise between parking and no-parking on business blocks. But the real solution lies in the provision of garages for the accommodation of machines during business hours. New York is wrestling with this same problem, and the other day a proposal was made, and is now being seriously considered, for the establishment of municipal parking garages under the park spaces. The plan, which has been tried elsewhere, is to excavate accommodation under the parks for machines that are to be left downtown for a short time, to be summoned by special calling devices from the stores or office buildings where their owners may be doing business.

Of course, such construction would be very expensive, perhaps too costly for consideration here. But whether daytime storage space is provided on the surface or underground or above the streets and buildings in some way it must be afforded in a few years, for Washington at the present rate of growth will be choked with motor cars during business hours, to the great delay of all traffic and to the increase of danger to the public.

The Senate and Conference Results.
It is important and encouraging to remember that when the results of the armament conference come up for consideration in the Senate two men thoroughly competent to explain them in every detail will be present to do so. Moreover, both men are always heard with close attention by the Senate. They have established leadership in the chamber, one on one side and the other on the other.

Mr. Lodge and Mr. Underwood are prominent in the work of the conference, and will return to Capitol Hill prepared to meet all comers as to the purpose and the value of what the conference shall have accomplished. When the results of the Paris conference were before the Senate no member of that body appearing as the champion of what Mr. Wilson had brought back with him had other than second-hand information on the subject. And information even of that kind was meager. Mr. Wilson had operated so much on his individual account—had played a lone hand so much at Paris—the supporters of his work had to look to him for arguments and explanations; and his communications left much to be desired. He did not answer his critics thoroughly even on his stumping tour across the continent.

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Idlers have never controlled America. To begin with, they are not numerous enough; and, to end with, if the number were multiplied twenty

times they would still be powerless. "Zip," "pop," "ginger," "git-up-and-getedness," what you please, is what counts in this country.
The Russian problem is to bring the two classes of workers into better relations with each other; to bring each to a better understanding of the rights and just privileges of the other. When that is done—and that is the aim—we shall be a nation get along very well.
The Russian workers, under the leadership of Lenin and Trotsky, have made a horrible mess in their country. Does Mr. Hardy want such conditions spread over the world? They could not be spread over this country. In Russia Lenin and Trotsky have been dealing with people brutalized and made desperate by the consequences of centuries of czarism. They could not find in large numbers the like of the former Russian serf in America. Hence their leadership in America would be impossible.

Constructive Christmas Work.
A most delightful custom has developed in recent years of organizations of citizens and business men taking upon themselves the entertainment of children at Christmas time. These groups of busy men, aided in many cases by their wives, prepare big "Christmas parties" for the children, with automobiles provided to transport them and with toys and sweetmeats and foods of all kinds appropriate to the season for their delight. These children are chosen from among the families of the poor of Washington who otherwise would have but scanty reminders of Christmas time.

There is no measuring the good that these "lords bountiful" do thus in their annual endeavors for the happiness of the little folks of Washington. Others than business organizations do the same. Churches, missions and neighborhood associations conduct these Christmas parties. It has become the fashion, and one, it is to be hoped, that will never pass, but will become more systematic year by year.

The ideal is that no child in Washington should go without some tangible token of the season, some souvenir of kindness and thoughtfulness. The ways of the little folks who dwell in poverty are hard. Their lives are pretty gray and drear. After they have passed the period of unconsciousness of privation they realize their own unmet wants and they are apt to envy more fortunate children. Envy is not a wholesome feeling. It is destructive and it makes for trouble in later years.

These big Christmas parties conducted by the clubs and churches and missions and other organizations help to smooth out the wrinkles, to make life easier for the youngsters, to give them a more wholesome outlook, to give them a surer start toward good manhood and good womanhood. And for this service these groups of good people should receive the thanks of the whole community.

A very slight difference in geological events prevented Japan from being a peninsula instead of an island. This difference, however, looms up as of the highest importance in political and economic transactions.

The unworthy often profit by the efforts of the deserving. Early Christmas shoppers have made the last hours of holiday buying comparatively serene and comfortable.

Many natives of islands in the Pacific continue to disport themselves in carefree indifference to the political importance they are gradually assuming.

The fact that North Carolina is a democratic state does not prevent President Harding from going to Pinehurst. Golf knows no politics.

Anarchists exhibit a tendency to gravitate toward Europe. The genuine American citizen never develops into a bomb thrower.

If Germany can produce "synthetic gold," identical with the natural product, she may yet be able to redeem all her paper money.

SHOOTING STARS.
BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.
Obscure But Influential.
Somebody spread the story
That "there ain't no Santa Claus."
The old boy lost his glory
And we silenced our applause.
But a million good and true men
Said, "It is no time to shirk,
And although we're merely human
We will try to do the work."

So each kiddie gets his present
As he did in days of yore,
And the world seems warm and pleasant,
Though it's chilly out of door.
Every pulse, with glad persistence
Feels a strong and generous throbbing,
And Old Santa in the distance
Stands around to boss the job.

Quantity and Quality.
"Your constituents are commenting on the fact that your speeches are not as long as they used to be."
"I hope," rejoined Senator Sorghum, "that they realize and appreciate the care and labor involved in going over them and trying to make them shorter."

Jud Tunkins says that in spite of all the affection for him, Santa Claus is never going to get popular enough to set the fashion in whiskers.

The Pathway.
We're told we ought to smooth the way
That fellow mortals have to go.
We can't strew roses every day,
But we can shovel off the snow.

Harmless Cheer.
"Do you remember when we used to have egg nog and everything for Christmas?"
"Yes," replied Uncle Bill Bottletop. "But I have reverted to my innocent childhood days. I'm going to hang up my stocking instead of a bootleg."

"Dar's a heap o' gratitude," said Uncle Eben, "dat don't never git proper expression, foh de reason dat fullness of de heart is mighty liable to despoil a man of de power of speech."

Who's Who
XXX—Senator Oscar W. Underwood.
WHEN President Harding appointed Senator Oscar W. Underwood one of the four principal American delegates to the conference on the limitation of armament satisfaction was widely expressed. In the first place, Senator Underwood is recognized as one of the ablest men in either branch of Congress. In the second place, he is the leader of the democrats in the Senate, and it was generally conceded that the President had been wise to appoint a member of the minority party a member of the delegation.

Of the fifty-nine years of his life, Senator Underwood has spent twenty-six in Congress—the first twenty years as a member of the House of Representatives, and the last six years as a member of the Senate. He is now beginning his second term as senator. Before he had completed his first term in the Senate he was selected as leader of his party in that body, which is almost unprecedented in the annals of the Senate, where length of service counts so much when it comes to selection of officers and membership on important committees. But Mr. Underwood is essentially a leader. He has all the characteristics which make him an able chieftain.

Moreover, the democrats had had experience with him as a leader in the House. When, during the Taft administration, the democrats came into power, Mr. Underwood became chairman of the House ways and means committee. In those days this office took with it the floor leadership of the House, though this rule has now been modified, and the floor leader and the chairman of the important committee are separate offices. Mr. Underwood was elected President of the Senate in 1919, when he was elected President of the Senate in 1919, when he was elected President of the Senate in 1919.

Mr. Underwood is one of the best posted men in the country on matters relating to the tariff and internal revenue. When he entered the Senate, however, he avoided seeking appointment to the finance committee, which handles those matters for the Senate, leaving Senator Simmons of North Carolina to lead on tariff questions. It was not long, however, before Mr. Underwood made himself recognized as a power in the Senate. As a debater and a parliamentary tactician, Mr. Underwood has few equals. He has the ability to get his colleagues together to hold them together. This is due in part to his personality, particularly lovable. He is exceedingly frank. There is never any doubt as to where he stands on a proposition, once he has grasped it and made up his mind.

In 1919 Mr. Underwood was a candidate for the democratic nomination for President at the earliest solicitation of his friends. In the Baltimore convention he showed much strength when it came to the ballotting of his friends. In the Baltimore convention he showed much strength when it came to the ballotting of his friends. In the Baltimore convention he showed much strength when it came to the ballotting of his friends.

During the present conference Mr. Underwood has been made American representative on and chairman of a subcommittee dealing with the intricate question of the customs tariffs to be levied by the Chinese, because of his great familiarity with such subjects.

EDITORIAL DIGEST
Does Article II Resemble Article X?
Is article II of the new four-power treaty substantially the same thing as article X of the covenant of the league of nations? In the opinion of many papers upholding the league the negligible difference between the two provisions, which they endeavor to prove, is the conclusive argument in favor of accepting the new treaty. But, on the other side of the debate, whatever the resemblance in wording, the utter dissimilarity in meaning, as developed in an effort to secure popular support of the new pact. So totally divergent viewpoints seek the same objective.

"After all the fuff and feathers over the famous article X of the Wilsonian covenant," remarks the *Scranton Times* (democratic), "we are to get the substance of that article in another and even more definite treaty, and the *Scranton Times* (democratic) holds that because 'in a very great measure article II of the new treaty is identical in purpose with article X' and includes 'practically the heart of what the covenant aimed at,' friends of the league need not be in a hurry to accept the four-power pact."

It is, indeed, a "hopeful sign" to the *Yonkers Chronicle* (independent) that the administration "had the courage to do the consistently inconsistent thing" and "adopt the only method the promises will be made. Placed side by side in the *Chronicle's* editorial are the two provisions, and in its opinion, well as that of many writers, they form "a deadly parallel."

Article II of the new treaty provides that "if said rights are threatened by the aggressive action of any other power the high contracting parties shall unite with one another fully and frankly in order to arrive at an understanding as to the most efficient measures to be taken jointly or separately to meet the exigencies of the particular situation."

"The difference in principle is nil," the *Lynchburg Herald* (democratic) interprets the two clauses, even though there is a material difference in scope. For, the *Louisville Courier-Journal* (democratic) article II is "simply article X applied to a narrower field," as the *New York World* (democratic) puts it, "an Asiatic British Empire."

The *Harrisburg Patriot* (independent democratic), also, "the two articles are as like as two peas in a pod in principle," and "in both instances when danger threatens there shall be conference and consideration of means and methods to meet the situation, with the 'moral' force of that obligation no less in the new treaty than in the old. Such difference as there is between them is really one of degree in frankness," the *Milwaukee Journal* (independent) thinks, for while the "guarantee against aggression" is not stated in precise terms in the Pacific treaty as it is in the covenant, action is in fact in an unmistakable manner.

There are "similarities," the *New York Tribune* (republican) really admits, but "the dissimilarities are more numerous." Chiefly, the *Ithaca Journal-News* (independent) points out, "there is no 'super-government' in the new pact, says the *Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph* (republican), "relates to matters in which our government and the others have a direct interest because of ownership. . . . Article X would have pledged us to interfere in matters in which we did not concern us in the slightest."

But the distinction that is emphasized most persistently is the one which concerns the "guarantee" behind the agreements. A number of papers, among them the *Boston Herald* (independent republican) draw attention to two words which they consider significant. The new treaty, says the *Herald*, "requires the contracting parties to 'respect' each other's rights," while article X pledges league members to "respect" and "preserve" territorial integrity and existing political independence. Therein lies the difference, the *Portland Oregonian* (independent republican) observes, for in doing whatever a council "deems necessary to 'preserve,' war is clearly a possibility, while 'there is absolutely nothing in the Pacific treaty compelling the use of force.'"

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I THANK YOU!
Wishing my many friends and patrons a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Wm. H. Grovermann
Jeweler
807 Eleventh St. N.W.

Meeting the Emergency
If you have overlooked some one—or want to reciprocate—some gift just received—we're open until 9 o'clock this evening—and you'll find many a suggestion in our stock of unique remembrances—whether it's a Christmas card or something more pretentious.
The National Remembrance Shop
(Mr. Foster's Shop)
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14th St., one door from Pa. Ave.

Christmas Dinner
Sunday and Monday
12:30 to 2:30 P.M.
6 to 8 P.M.
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Famous Restaurant
11th and Pa. Ave.
Sunday, Dec. 25; Monday, Dec. 26
12 to 8 P.M.
\$2
Celebrate Christmas and New Year's Eve With Us
There will be nothing lacking to help make each occasion an enjoyable one
Make Your Reservations Now
Phone Fr. 3034

close our books at the end of the year without expressing our appreciation for the business you have entrusted to us would leave a debt unpaid.
We thank you and extend our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous New Year.

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ANDREW PARKER, Vice-President and Trust Officer
HARRY G. MEEN, Vice-President and Treasurer
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BOYD TAYLOR, Assistant Treasurer
CHARLES H. DOING, Jr., Assistant Treasurer
CHARLES E. GRAN, Assistant Treasurer
ARTHUR PETER, Assistant General Counsel

Woodward & Lothrop
and the
Members of Their Store Family
Heartily Extend to You
Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas
—with sincere appreciation for making this the greatest holiday business in the history of this establishment.
Store Closed Monday, December 26th